



File Code: 1950
Date: June 20, 2018

Dear Interested Party:

This letter is to inform you of the availability of the Yuba Project Environmental Assessment (EA) and signed Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact (DN/FONSI), in accordance with 36 CFR 220.7(d). The 45-day objection filing period for the Yuba Project began on February 22, 2018 and closed on April 9, 2018.

Three objections were filed on this Project from: Chad Hanson and Justin Augustine on behalf of The John Muir Project of the Earth Island Institute (JMP) and Center for Biological Diversity (CBD); Ben Solvesky on behalf of Sierra Forest Legacy (SFL), and Dick Artley. SFL participated in a resolution meeting with the reviewing officer, responsible official, and staff from the Regional Office and Tahoe National Forest on May 9, 2018. Mr. Artley and JMP/CBD declined to attend the resolution meeting. On May 10, 2018 SFL withdrew their objection on the Yuba Project.

During the resolution meeting with SFL, I agreed to modify the mechanical thinning treatments in Units 30 and 34 under Alternative A to retain 50 percent or greater canopy cover. Accordingly, stand data for canopy cover and stand density index (SDI) were adjusted for these two units in the EA and Silvicultural Report. The EA and Biological Evaluation/Biological Assessment (BE/BA) for Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife were also updated to account for post-treatment canopy cover of 50 percent or greater in Units 30 and 34. In addition, an error in the reported SDI projections for Unit 34 under Alternative C was corrected. The corrected SDI data indicate that retaining 50 percent canopy cover in Unit 34 (under both Alternatives A and C) would effectively maintain stand density levels below 60 percent max SDI over the 50-year projection period.

On May 29, 2018, the Reviewing Officer issued a written response to the Yuba Project objections, pursuant to 36 CFR 218.11(b). The Reviewing Officer instructed me to complete specific items (listed below) before this decision was signed. He also provided several suggestions for me to consider to strengthen the environmental analysis and my decision. The Yuba Project EA and specialist reports have been updated to address the Reviewing Officer's instructions and suggestions below:

Instructions:

- Include a discussion of how you considered best available and opposing science for the Project.
- Clarify the difference between temporary roads, skid trails, and new road construction within the Project.
- Expand on the rationale for not including an alternative that would reduce the miles of new road construction.



Suggestions

- Provide conclusions for the cumulative effects analysis in the recreation specialist report.
- Ensure adequate discussion of the smoke effects to the public from prescribed burning.
- Identify the goal of road decommissioning within the Project.
- Clarify how the aspen delineation document explains the intent of aspen restoration for the project. Clarify the prescription and marking guidelines for aspen restoration objectives.

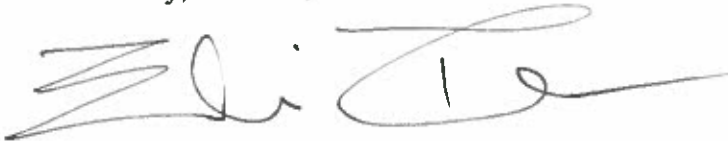
The updated Yuba Project EA, DN/FONSI and specialist reports are posted on the Tahoe National Forest website, at:

<http://fs.usda.gov/projects/tahoe/landmanagement/projects>.

For further information about the Yuba Project, please contact: Roger Brown, Project Leader, or Dennis Stevens, Environmental Coordinator, Tahoe National Forest, Yuba River Ranger District, 15924 Highway 49, Camptonville, CA 95922, phone (530) 478-6253.

Thank you for your interest in the management of the Tahoe National Forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Eli Ilano', with a stylized, flowing script.

ELI ILANO
Forest Supervisor

Cc: Lon Henderson, District Ranger